

ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



VOLUME: 2

CHAPTER: 15

OF PAGES: 31

SUBJECT: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**EFFECTIVE DATE:
March 3, 2026**

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:

NJSACOP - 1.3.1, 1.4.3a-e

CALEA (LE1) – 26.1.4, 26.2.1, 26.2.2, 26.2.4, 26.3.2, 26.3.3, 26.3.5

**BY THE ORDER OF:
Chief Giacomo Sacca**

**BY AUTHORITY OF:
Police Director Earl J. Graves**

SUPERSEDES ORDER #: G.O. #13

PURPOSE: The purpose of this general order is to maintain a high quality of law enforcement services. Improving the relationship between employees and the public facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. This department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially delivered. Employees are held to the highest standards of conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. This department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints regarding individual employee performance. An effective disciplinary framework permits department personnel to monitor employee compliance with department directives, assist employees in meeting department objectives, enhance performance, and permit managers to identify problem areas which require increased training or direction. Finally, this general order shall ensure fundamental fairness and due process protection to citizens and employees alike.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Elizabeth Police Department to accept and investigate all complaints of department and employee's alleged misconduct or wrongdoing from all persons who wish to file a complaint, regardless of the hour or day of the week. This includes reports from anonymous sources, juveniles, undocumented immigrants, and persons under arrest or in custody. All allegations of employee misconduct shall be thoroughly, objectively, and promptly investigated to their logical conclusion in conformance with this policy, regardless of whether the employee resigns or otherwise separates from the agency. Discipline shall be administered according to the degree of misconduct. All employees, regardless of rank/title, shall be subject to disciplinary action for violating their oath and trust. Committing an offense punishable under the laws of the United States, the State of New Jersey, or municipality constitutes a violation of that oath and trust. Employees are also subject to disciplinary action for the willful or negligent failure to perform the duties of their rank or assignment. In addition, employees may be disciplined for violation of any rule or regulation of the department or for failure to obey any lawful instruction, order, or command of a superior officer or supervisor. Disciplinary/corrective action in all matters will be determined based upon the merits of each case. Investigators conducting the investigation of any allegation of misconduct shall strive to conduct a thorough and objective investigation respecting the rights of the principal, any other law enforcement officer, and all members of

the public. Accordingly, any supervisor and any officer who may be called upon to conduct an internal investigation must be thoroughly familiar with the department's Internal Affairs policy.

This general order has been developed in accordance with the revised New Jersey Attorney General Directive on Internal Affairs.

PROCEDURE:

I. DEFINITION OF TERMS/FORMS

- A. The following forms/reports shall be used in accordance with this general order:
1. **Appendix A: Civilian Complaint Information Sheet** - This form, which explains the department's internal affairs procedures, shall be provided to all citizen complainants.
 2. **Appendix B: Internal Affairs Report Form** - This report will be an objective recounting of all the relevant information the investigation disclosed, including statements, documents and other evidence. Such report shall contain a complete account of the investigation of any internal affairs matters.
 3. **Appendix C: Internal Affairs Complaint Notification** - This form, when appropriate, shall be served to an employee who is the principal of an internal affairs investigation.
 4. **Appendix D: Sample Immediate Suspension Notice** - This form shall be used when an employee is suspending pending disposition of an investigation or an investigation.
 5. **Appendix E : Sample Response Letter** - These are sample response letters provided to the complainant.
 6. **Appendix F: Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action** - See Number 13 below.
 7. **Appendix G: Miranda Warning** - This form shall be used in an internal affairs investigation when interviewing an employee accused of committing a crime after consultation with the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
 8. **Appendix H: Sample Use Immunity Grant** - This is provided only after approval by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
 9. **Appendix I: Witness Acknowledgement Form** - The form shall be used during internal affairs investigation interviews when interviewing a witness in an internal affairs investigation.
 10. **Appendix J: Administrative Advisement Form** - This form shall be used during internal affairs investigation interviews when interviewing the principal in an internal affairs investigation.
 11. **Appendix K: Internal Affairs Policy Reporting Form** - These reports shall be submitted to the Union County Prosecutor's Office and others as required.

12. **Appendix L: Annual Major Discipline Reporting Form** - This form shall be submitted to the Attorney General and the County Prosecutor, and published on the agency's public website.
13. **Appendix F & M: Final Notice of Disciplinary Action** - These forms shall be used to formally notify the principal of charges approved by the Chief of Police in connection with the completed Internal Affairs investigation. These disciplinary forms shall only be used for discipline that exceeds a written reprimand. The DPF-379 disciplinary form (minor discipline) shall only be used for charges that exceed a written reprimand and does not exceed a 5-day suspension. **(DPF-31A, DPF-31B and DPF-379)**
14. **Appendix N: Representative Confidentiality Form** - This form shall be provided to the Weingarten representative present during an internal affairs interview.
15. **Appendix O: Summary and Conclusions Report** - This form shall summarize the case and provide conclusions of fact for each allegation. The form should be organized as follows:
 - a. A summary of the allegations against the principal, including a recitation of the alleged facts;
 - b. A summary of factual findings in which the investigator outlines the facts proven or supported by the evidence reviewed during the investigation, and applies those facts to each allegation. This shall include a conclusive finding on whether each allegation is to be recorded as exonerated, sustained, not sustained or unfounded. For sustained findings that qualify for disclosure, the summary of factual findings, along with the discipline imposed, should be the basis for the brief synopsis;
 - c. A discipline imposed section in which the final discipline imposed on the principal will be recorded. This section should be completed once the discipline imposed becomes final.

If the conduct of a principal was found to be improper, the report must cite the agency rule, regulation, or SOP violated. Any aggravating or mitigating circumstances surrounding the situation, such as unclear or poorly drafted agency policy, inadequate training or lack of proper supervision, shall also be noted in the form.
16. **Appendix P: State Standardized Internal Affairs Complaint Form** - This form shall be utilized by department employees to document a reportable incident by all complainants.
17. **Appendix Q: Performance Notice** - This form shall be completed by a supervisor to memorialize any corrective action (not discipline) taken either as a result of a reported performance deficiency incident or internal affairs investigation. This form shall also be used to commend an employee for positive performance.

18. **Appendix R: Reprimand Notice** - This form shall be used to notify formally, the principal of discipline approved by the Chief of Police in connection with the completed internal affairs investigation. This disciplinary form shall be used for discipline that does not exceed a written reprimand.

B. **Reportable Incident:** is any behavior, performance, or non-performance that may violate department rules, regulations, procedures, applicable criminal and civil laws, and the United States or New Jersey Constitutions. All reportable incidents shall be carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor to determine the manner of response that best serves the public, the department, and the employee. Reportable Incidents classified as misconduct will result in an internal investigation conducted in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Directive and this general order. Reportable incidents include, but are not limited to the following:

1. A complaint that an employee has engaged in any form of misconduct, as defined in this general order, whether on or off-duty;
2. An alleged violation of any of the Department Rules and Regulations;
3. An alleged violation of any written directive issued by this department or appropriate authority as defined by ordinance;
4. A refusal to or a failure to comply with a lawful written or verbal order, directive, or instruction;
5. The filing of a civil suit by a civilian alleging any misconduct by an employee while on duty or acting in an official capacity;
6. The filing of a civil suit against an employee for off-duty conduct while not acting in an official capacity that alleges racial bias, physical violence, or threat of physical violence;
7. Criminal arrest of or filing of a criminal charge against an employee;
8. Allegation(s) that an employee is either an alleged perpetrator or victim of a domestic violence incident.

C. Police officers shall be held accountable for violations of all written directives, inclusive of use of force policies. The following are some mechanisms for ensuring accountability for violating the use of force policy:

1. Clear, and detailed policies defining acceptable use of force and the consequences for violations.
2. Regular, and comprehensive use of force training.
3. Supervision and meaningful reviews of use of force incidents.
4. Reporting and documentation of each use of force incident. Unreported use of force incidents shall result in disciplinary action, if warranted.
5. Allegations of excessive force shall be thoroughly investigated by Internal Affairs.

6. If an investigation determines that an officer violated use of force policies, there shall be timely and consistent disciplinary action, if warranted.
 7. The agency shall maintain an early warning/early intervention system to document identified behavior trends, inclusive of use of force.
- D. **Classification:** There are three classifications of a reportable incident. All reportable incidents shall be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor to screen, record and classify the incident as one of the following (**See Figure #1**):

NOTE: All allegations of **misconduct**, whether criminal or administrative, regardless of the source of the allegation shall result in an internal investigation.

1. **Criminal Misconduct** - Reportable Incidents classified as criminal misconduct will result in immediate notification to the Union County Prosecutor of the receipt of the complaint by the Internal Affairs Unit. No further action shall be taken, including the filing of charges against an employee, until directed by the County Prosecutor.
 - a. Criminal Misconduct is defined as a reportable incident where there is an allegation of a crime or an offense.
2. **Administrative Misconduct** - An incident may be classified as administrative misconduct in which case an investigation shall be conducted in accordance with this general order.
 - a. Administrative Misconduct is defined as a reportable incident where there is a serious violation of department rules and regulations, general order; or, conduct which adversely reflects upon the employee or the department.
 - b. Repeat performance deficiencies may be classified as administrative misconduct.
3. **Performance Deficiency** - An incident that is classified as a performance deficiency shall be referred to the supervisor for addressing through non-disciplinary corrective actions, (corrective action shall be training or counseling only).
 - a. A performance deficiency is defined as a reportable incident of any minor rule infraction that can be addressed at the supervisory level of an employee. This department recognizes that not all reportable incidents constitute misconduct and certain reportable incidents are more effectively handled outside of the disciplinary process. Performance deficiency incidents **are not** internal affairs investigations.

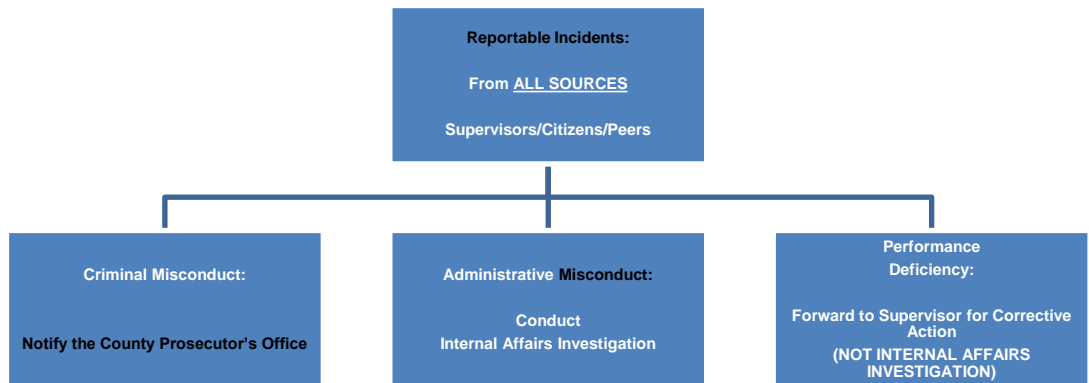


Figure #1 (Classification Process)

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A. The investigative process should seek to locate and identify all evidence available to either prove or disprove allegations made against an employee.
- B. With the exception of internal investigations that are part of an ongoing or potential criminal investigation, the majority of internal investigations are administrative in nature. Unlike criminal investigations where the burden of proof is beyond a reasonable doubt, the standard for administrative cases is a preponderance of the evidence.
- C. Also important is that strict rules of evidence and certain constitutional protections that apply in criminal cases do not attach to these investigations. In accordance with established case law, the investigator, reviewing authority and the Chief of Police can rely on types of evidence that would be inadmissible in a criminal proceeding provided, there is some indication of reliability.
- D. Furthermore, unlike criminal investigations, certain specific legal protections that arise in employment & labor matters and in police discipline matters apply to employees subject to an internal investigation. These include rights and practices commonly referred to as Weingarten, Loudermill, and Garrity rights, as well as contractual rights or those based on state or federal statutes.
- E. Investigators and reviewers shall scrupulously adhere to the principles that all employees shall be afforded all rights to which they are entitled. At the same time, investigative and review personnel will also be aware of their obligations to determine the facts of each case utilizing investigative methods, which are consistent with acceptable practices in employee discipline cases.
- F. Internal Affairs investigations shall not rely solely on the outcome of related criminal matters or traffic matters. The conviction of a citizen complainant shall not be dispositive as to the citizen's complaint regarding the employee's conduct related to the incident. However, the court proceedings will be relevant and should be reviewed. Unless otherwise determined, most cases involving a court action will

require the collection and analysis of court records and transcripts of court appearances by the principal, complainant, or critical witnesses. The investigator should make every attempt to attend court proceedings, to monitor the progress/outcome of the case. As a monitor, the investigator need not notify the prosecutor, judge, or other court personnel of his/her presence and should not have any input in the proceedings.

- G. If a civilian signs criminal or traffic complaints, in addition to making an internal affairs complaint against an employee, a not guilty disposition of the court shall not automatically determine the outcome of the internal complaint. However, it will be relevant and part of the investigation.
- H. The investigator and reviewing authority shall consider that administrative charges have a different threshold of proof as well as less restrictive rules of evidence.
- I. As internal affairs investigators, a tendency to automatically grant more credibility to statements given by employees of the department and other law enforcement officials than to statements given by civilian complainants and witnesses must be carefully avoided. In certain situations where the credibility and motive of the complainant is reasonably suspected, a credibility determination may be made as provided for in this general order. However, investigators, unless otherwise authorized, will investigate the relevant facts of the allegations and not the background or motive of the complainant, unless relevant to the investigation.
- J. It is the policy of this department that personnel conducting internal investigations deal with complainants, witnesses, and principals in a professional manner. This includes being prepared for interviews, promptly responding to telephone calls, and handling all related contacts during an investigation to leave citizens and employees alike with the impression that a thorough, fair, and impartial investigation of the allegation(s) will be conducted.
- K. Discovery of additional allegations and identification of additional principals:
 - 1. In conducting investigations, the propriety of all conduct by the employee relating to the subject matter of the investigation shall be reviewed.
 - 2. If during the course of an investigation, the investigator has reason to believe that misconduct occurred, other than that alleged, the investigator shall:
 - a. Document the information and forward it to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor/Chief of Police to determine the appropriate response.
 - b. Unless otherwise directed, the investigator shall investigate the additional allegation to its logical conclusion.
 - 3. If during the course of an investigation, the investigator has reason to believe that another employee may have been involved in alleged misconduct and should be interviewed as a principal, the investigator shall report the information to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor/Chief of Police, and await further instructions. Other aspects of the investigation should continue.

- L. The New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement
 - 1. Under no circumstances, shall an officer face any type of discrimination or adverse internal affairs consequences for the sole reason that the officer decided to seek medical or psychological treatment for a mental health concern, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, or substance use disorder.
 - 2. All officers are encouraged to take advantage of the resources provided by the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement, as well as the other resources identified in Attorney General Directive 2019-1.

III. INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

- A. The Internal Affairs Unit is herein established. The Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor shall have direct access to the Chief of Police on all matters involving internal affairs. Personnel assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit shall serve at the pleasure of and be directly responsible to the Chief of Police or designee.
 - 1. Investigators must recuse themselves from cases where they have a conflict of interest that may prevent them from being impartial in the investigation of a subject employee.
 - 2. Officers assigned to the Internal Affairs Unit shall complete training as mandated by the Division of Criminal Justice.
 - a. Officers may attend additional training on internal affairs provided by the Union County Prosecutor's Office and other sources.
- B. The goal of the Internal Affairs Unit is to ensure that the integrity of the department is maintained through a system of internal discipline where fairness and justice are assured by objective, impartial investigation and review.
- C. Under no circumstances may the Elizabeth Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit be contracted or delegated to a private entity.
 - 1. Instead, when necessary, the Elizabeth Police Department may request that an internal affairs complaint be investigated directly by the Union County Prosecutor, who shall determine whether to investigate the matter, refer the matter to the Internal Affairs function of another law enforcement entity, or return the matter to the Elizabeth Police Department, if the Union County Prosecutor determines that the department can appropriately investigate the matter.
 - 2. Nothing in this general order shall prevent the Elizabeth Police Department from retaining a qualified private individual to serve as a hearing officer or an expert witness.
- D. Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor shall be responsible for:
 - 1. The management of the Internal Affairs Unit;

2. The coordination and review of all internal affairs investigations;
3. The review of all allegations of misconduct by employees of this department;
4. The Chief of Police shall be immediately notified when an employee is accused of a crime, domestic violence incident where the employee is either an alleged perpetrator or victim, any incident that attracts media attention, and any incident that would affect the efficient and effective operation of the department. In addition, the duty supervisor shall take any immediate action necessary to preserve the integrity of the department until directed otherwise by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. All other notifications shall be made on the next business day.
5. The maintenance of a comprehensive central file and recordkeeping system on all complaints received by this department, whether investigated by Internal Affairs Unit personnel or assigned to an employee's supervisor. A quarterly report on the status of all pending Internal Affairs investigations will be provided to the Chief of Police.
 - a. Internal Affairs investigations shall receive an Internal Affairs filing number.
6. The preparing and mailing of a Complaint Acknowledgement Letter to all civilian complainants.

E. Internal Affairs Unit shall be responsible for:

1. The investigation and review of all allegations of misconduct by employees of this department.
2. In addition to investigations concerning allegations of misconduct, the Internal Affairs Unit shall receive notice of:
 - a. Any firearm discharge by department personnel, whether on-duty or off-duty, unless the discharge occurred during the course of a law enforcement training exercise; routine target practice at a firing range; a lawful animal hunt; or the humane killing of an injured animal;
 - b. Any discharge of an agency-owned firearm by anyone other than agency personnel;
 - c. Any use of force by agency personnel that results in injury to any person,
 - d. Any vehicular pursuit involving agency personnel; and
 - e. Any collision involving agency-owned vehicle
3. Once notification has been received, internal affairs will determine whether additional investigation is necessary.
4. Internal affairs shall conduct a manual or computerized audit of its records to determine if an employee has the emergence of a pattern, practices or

trend of inappropriate behavior or misconduct in accordance with department general order governing early warning.

5. Internal affairs shall be responsible for any other investigation as directed by the Chief of Police.
6. The Internal Affairs Unit may conduct an internal affairs investigation on their own initiative upon notice to, or at the direction of the Chief of Police or Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor.
7. The Internal Affairs Unit may refer reportable incidents classified as a performance deficiency to an employee's supervisor for inquiry and corrective action.
8. The Internal Affairs Unit investigators or personnel temporarily assigned to that function shall have the authority to interview any employee of the department and to review any record or report of the department relative to their assignment. Requests from the Internal Affairs Unit personnel, in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities, shall be given full cooperation and compliance as though the requests came directly from the Chief of Police.
9. Notification to the Union County Prosecutor's Office
 - a. The Chief of Police or designee shall immediately notify the Union County Prosecutor of the receipt of the complaint by the Internal Affairs function when an officer is alleged to have committed criminal conduct; is charged with a disorderly persons offense, a petty disorderly persons offense, a municipal ordinance violation, or a driving while intoxicated matter; or has been the subject of a finding that could impact the officer's credibility.
10. On an annual basis, the Elizabeth Police Department shall publish on its public website a report summarizing the types of complaints received and the dispositions of those complaints. This report **should** be statistical in nature.
11. The Elizabeth Police Department shall on a periodic basis, no later than January 31 of the following year submit to the Attorney General and the County Prosecutor, and publish on the agency's public website, a brief synopsis. The synopsis of each case shall follow the format provided in Appendix L (updated November 2022) and shall include the identity of each officer subject to final discipline, a full explanation of the rule, regulation, policy, directive, or law violated, a factual summary of their conduct, and a statement of the sanction imposed. This synopsis shall not contain the identities of the complainants or any victims. Where discipline relates to domestic violence, the synopsis shall not disclose the relationship between a victim and an officer. In rare circumstances, further redactions may be necessary to protect the identity of a victim. Whenever practicable, notice shall be given to victims of domestic or sexual violence in advance of an agency's disclosure of discipline related to the incident. The synopsis shall include all misconduct where an agency member:
 - a. Was terminated;

- b. Was reduced in rank or grade;
- c. Was assessed a suspension of more than five days.
 - 1) A suspension of more than five days shall be broadly construed to include any disposition involving a suspension of more than 40 hours of time or the equivalent of five days/shifts if less than 40 hours, regardless of whether any of the suspension time was suspended or held in abeyance. It shall include the loss of vacation, sick or leave time totaling more than 40 hours or the equivalent of five days/shifts. It shall include any combination of suspension time assessed plus loss of vacation, sick or leave time that aggregates to more than 40 hours or the equivalent of five days/shifts. It shall also include any fine that exceeds the gross value of 40 hours, or the equivalent of five days/shifts, of pay;
- d. Had a sustained finding of discrimination or bias against any person because of the individual's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, familial status, or any other protected characteristic under N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq., regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- e. Had a sustained finding that the officer utilized excessive force in violation of departmental policy or the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- f. Had a sustained finding that the officer was untruthful or has demonstrated a lack of candor, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- g. Had a sustained finding that an officer has filed a false report or submitted a false certification in any criminal, administrative, employment, financial, or insurance matter in their professional or personal life, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- h. Had a sustained finding that an officer intentionally conducted an improper search, seizure or arrest, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- i. Had a sustained finding that an officer intentionally mishandled or destroyed evidence, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- j. Had a sustained finding of domestic violence, as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:25-19, regardless of the type or severity of discipline imposed;
- k. Resigned, retired, transferred or separated from the agency, regardless of the reason, while any internal affairs investigation or complaint was pending, and the misconduct ultimately sustained (as defined in this policy and the current IAPP) falls within categories d

through j above or would have resulted in an action under categories a through c had the member not separated from the agency; or

- I. Was charged with any indictable crime under New Jersey or an equivalent offense under federal law or the law of another jurisdiction related to the complaint.

The department may not, as part of a plea or settlement agreement in an internal affairs investigation or otherwise, enter into any agreement concerning the content of a synopsis subject to public disclosure, including any agreement regarding the identities of officers subject to final discipline, summaries of misconduct, or statements of the sanctions imposed. The department or officer shall not enter into any non-disclosure agreement which seeks to conceal or prevent public review of the circumstances under which the officer separated from or was terminated or fired from employment by the department. Any matter in which discipline is formally imposed that falls within categories a through c, or sustained charges that fall within categories d through j of this section, or any other reporting requirements listed in this section, will be subject to public disclosure as required by the NJ Attorney General Guidelines. If a matter that satisfies these reporting requirements has been formally adjudicated, but is under appeal, the agency shall disclose the matter in accordance with the Attorney General Guidelines, noting in the public disclosure that the matter is under appeal. Any subsequent changes to the disposition of the matter will be updated appropriately once the appeal is resolved.

12. The Elizabeth Police Department shall report to the Union County Prosecutor's Office Brady/Giglio material.
 - a. Performing a Brady/Giglio Check
 - 1) Certain types of Brady/Giglio material may exist in the personnel or internal affairs records of law enforcement personnel. Such records must be maintained confidentially. However, because that confidentiality must give way to the State's discovery obligations, the following check should be performed in each case:
 - a) Before extending a plea offer, the assigned assistant prosecutor must identify the names of any police officer or other law enforcement employee who:
 - i. Has written a report;
 - ii. Has signed an affidavit or certification;
 - ii. Has testified under oath; or
 - iv. Will reasonably be expected to testify at a future grand jury proceeding, motion, or trial of the matter.
 - 2) In cooperation with their unit supervisor and the Brady/Giglio Liaison, the case assistant prosecutor will determine whether

potential Brady/Giglio material may exist for each of the identified individuals.

- 3) If no known Brady/Giglio material exists for any of the identified persons, a plea offer may be extended.
- 4) If potential Brady/Giglio information is determined to exist, the case assistant prosecutor will immediately deliver the case file to the Brady/Giglio Liaison, who will assess whether potential Brady/Giglio material exists, which is applicable to the present case. In that case, the assistant prosecutor will refrain from offering a plea until any potential Brady/Giglio material may be fully evaluated.

b. Conducting the "Candid Conversation"

- 1) The "candid conversation" process, now used by both the Department of Justice and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, recognizes that not all exculpatory material will be recorded in an officer's internal affairs or personnel records. Indeed, the vast majority of exculpatory information is case and situation specific. For example, a particular officer may have a personal history with a defendant or a defendant's family. That history may have been in no way improper, yet may have led to negative feelings that could be probative of bias-e.g., where an officer was previously involved in a business arrangement with a defendant's family that has since gone bad. Such information must be turned over to the defense in a case involving that defendant.
- 2) Therefore, before an officer testifies before the grand jury or at a trial or motion, the case assistant prosecutor must engage the officer in a "candid conversation" designed to elicit potential Brady/Giglio material. The conversation may be conducted by telephone or in person, allowing sufficient time for the disclosure of any exculpatory material that may be identified. The "candid conversation" should be conducted as follows:
 - a) The case assistant prosecutor should make contact with each officer reasonably expected to testify at any proceeding in the case.
 - b) On making contact, the case assistant prosecutor should ask the officer each of the questions in the attached "Candid Conversation Guide" and record the answer given on the form.
 - c) The case assistant prosecutor should then read the officer the advisement at the bottom of the guide and fill out the information required.

- d) The completed Candid Conversation Guide should then be incorporated into the case file as non-discoverable attorney work product.
 - e) If the answer to each of the listed questions is NO, the candid conversation process is complete.
 - f) If the officer answers YES or UNCERTAIN to any of the questions, the case assistant prosecutor should immediately contact their unit supervisor or the Brady/Giglio Liaison to determine how to proceed.
- c. Disclosure of Exculpatory Information
- 1) If potentially exculpatory information is discovered through this process, it is the responsibility of the assistant prosecutor assigned to the case, working with their unit supervisor, to consult with the Brady/Giglio Liaison to determine what information must be disclosed, how it is to be disclosed, and whether a protective order or in camera review should be sought. The Legal Chief of the Investigative Units serves as the Brady/Giglio Liaison for the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
- d. Continuing Obligation to Screen Potential Witnesses
- 1) As with all discovery obligations, the obligation to disclose Brady/Giglio material is an ongoing one. Accordingly, any time that an assistant prosecutor working on the file identifies another employee of a law enforcement agency likely to testify at any proceeding in the matter the procedures described herein must be applied to that person.
 - 2) Additionally, potential witnesses who have already undergone the candid conversation should be reminded of their continuing obligation to advise the assistant prosecutors of any changes to their original answers prior to every phase of the prosecution that might require their sworn testimony.
 - 3) Determinations as to whether certain information is discoverable under Brady/Giglio is often case-specific. As such, though we often work with the same officers, a candid Brady/Giglio conversation should occur with respect to every individual case.
- e. Brady/Giglio Material as it Relates to Civilian Witnesses
- 1) The State is obligated to disclose known evidence of general or specific bias, past instance of dishonesty, prior criminal convictions, under N.J.R.E. 609, prior inconsistent statements, under N.J.R.E. 613, and any other exculpatory evidence.

- 2) Although civilian witnesses are not simply an extension of the State, the following procedures will be followed for all civilian witnesses:
 - a) Working with the assigned assistant prosecutor as necessary, the assigned investigative staff will generate a criminal history report for every civilian witness who gave a statement during the investigation or who is reasonably likely to testify at a future proceeding in the matter, for review by the assistant prosecutor.
 - b) In preparing to elicit sworn testimony of any kind from a civilian witness, the assistant prosecutor will question the witness to determine whether potentially exculpatory evidence exists.
- f. The material relevant to Brady/Giglio includes:
 - 1) A sustained finding that an investigative employee has filed a false report or submitted a false certification in any criminal administrative, employment, financial, or insurance matter in his or her professional or personal life;
 - 2) A sustained finding that an investigative employee was untruthful or has demonstrated a lack of candor;
 - 3) A pending criminal charge or conviction of any crime, disorderly persons, petty disorderly persons, municipal ordinance, or driving while intoxicated matter;
 - 4) A sustained finding that undermines or contradicts an investigative employee's educational achievements or qualifications as an expert witness;
 - 5) A finding of fact by a judicial authority or administrative tribunal that is known to the employee's agency, which concludes a finding that the investigative employee was intentionally untruthful in a matter, either verbally or in writing;
 - 6) A sustained finding, or judicial finding, that an investigative employee intentionally mishandled or destroyed evidence;
 - 7) Any allegation of misconduct bearing upon truthfulness, bias, or integrity that is the subject of a pending investigation;
 - 8) Information that may be used to suggest that the investigative employee is biased for or against a defendant or witness in the case;
 - 9) Information that may be used to suggest that an investigative employee is biased against a particular group enumerated in the *Department's Bias Based Profiling* general order.

IV. ACCEPTING COMPLAINTS

A. Duty of Employees to Self-Report

1. All employees shall immediately self-report using the State Standardized Internal Affairs Complaint Form, in no case, more than four hours, the following information to the Internal Affairs Unit and the Chief of Police through the chain of command:
 - a. Whenever the employee is arrested or criminally charged for any conduct.
 - 1) The report must be made immediately, and in all cases prior to release or leaving the law enforcement agency. In the case of service of criminal charges, the notification must be made immediately upon the receipt of the charges.
 - b. Whenever the employee is named as a party in any civil suit involving their conduct while on duty or otherwise while acting in an official capacity.
 - c. Whenever the employee is named as a party in any civil suit regarding off-duty conduct while not acting in an official capacity that alleges racial bias, physical violence, or threats of physical violence by the employee.
 - d. Whenever the employee is either an alleged perpetrator or victim of a domestic violence incident.
2. When employees report this information to a supervisor, the supervisor shall directly and immediately report the information to the Internal Affairs Unit, in no case more than four hours after receipt of the notification. The Chief of Police shall notify the Union County Prosecutor's Office of the receipt of this information.

B. Duty of Employees to File a State Standardized Internal Affairs Complaint Form for Actions of Other Employees

1. An employee who receives information defined as a reportable incident shall report such information to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor.
2. All employees must report directly to the Internal Affairs Unit, or the Chief of Police any conduct by another employee that reasonably appears to constitute any of the following:
 - a. Prohibited discrimination;
 - b. An unreasonable use of force or a threat of force;
 - c. A constitutional violation;
 - d. Failure to follow any of the documentation requirements, including documentation of civilian complaint filing procedures;

- e. Providing false information in an investigation of an employee for misconduct or in any report, log, or transmittal of information to the department's communication center.
 - f. Any violations discovered during a supervisory review (staff inspection) of personnel. Supervisors conducting the review shall be held accountable for their referral decisions.
3. Retaliation against any employee for reporting misconduct shall constitute a serious disciplinary offense and may lead to a severe penalty up to and including termination.

C. Complaints from the Public

1. All department personnel are directed to accept reports of agency or employee misconduct from all persons who wish to file a complaint regardless of the hour or day of the week. Complainants are to be encouraged to submit their complaints in person as soon after the incident as possible. If the complainant cannot file the report in person, a representative from the Internal Affairs Unit shall visit the individual at their home, place of business, or at another location in order to complete the report, if possible. Telephone, e-mail, web-based reporting, and facsimile complaints may also be accepted.
- a. The procedures to register complaints against or commend the agency or its employees shall be made available to the public on the department website.
2. If a member of the Internal Affairs Unit is immediately available, they shall take the complaint.
- a. If a member of the Internal Affairs Unit is not immediately available, the complainant will be referred to the duty supervisor. In the absence of the duty supervisor, any department employee shall accept the report of employee misconduct.
3. Department personnel receiving the complaint shall:
- a. Provide the person making the complaint with the Civilian Complaint Information Sheet, which explains the department's Internal Affairs procedures. The employee accepting the complaint will explain the department's disciplinary procedures to the person making the complaint.
 - b. Advise the complainant that he or she will be kept informed of the status of the complaint, if requested and its ultimate disposition.
 - c. Complete as much of the Internal Affairs State Standardized Internal Affairs Complaint Form as possible before forwarding it to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for recording in the master recordkeeping system and classification by the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor.
 - 1) Forward three copies of the State Standardized Internal

Affairs Complaint Form to the principal's commanding officer.

4. All department personnel are directed to accept reports of agency or employee misconduct from anonymous sources. If the anonymous complainant is talking to an employee, the employee should encourage them to submit their complaint in person. In any case, the complaint will be accepted.
 - a. An employee of the department who interferes with or delays the reporting or investigation of such complaints may be subjected to disciplinary action.
5. If a complainant wants to make a complaint against an employee of another law enforcement agency, he/she will be referred to that agency. If the complainant expresses fears or concerns about making the report directly, he/she will be referred to the respective county prosecutor's office.
6. If a complaint is received from another law enforcement agency, the complaint will be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for classification.
7. Complaints against the Chief of Police and command staff may originate from a member of the public or from an employee of the agency. All such complaints shall be documented and referred to the Union County Prosecutor.
8. In accordance with the Attorney General's Directive No. 2018-6 on immigration issues, no state, county or local law enforcement officer shall inquire about or investigate the immigration status of any victim, witness, potential witness or person requesting or receiving police assistance.

D. Complaints shall be handled as follows:

1. All complaints will be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for classification and entry into the recordkeeping system.
2. Unless otherwise directed by the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor or the Chief of Police, complaints classified as a performance deficiency shall then be forwarded to the supervisor of the employee for inquiry and corrective action.
3. All other complaints classified as misconduct may be retained by the Internal Affairs Unit.
4. Once a complaint has been received, the principal shall be notified in writing that a report has been made and that an investigation will commence. The department shall issue the employee a written statement of the allegations and the employee's rights and responsibilities relative to the investigation. Such notification shall not include the name of the complainant. This notification is not necessary if doing so would impede the investigation.

V. IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS

A. Suspension Pending Disposition or Investigation

1. A supervisor or Chief of Police may immediately suspend an employee from duty if it is determined that one of the following conditions exists:
 - a. The employee is unfit for duty; or
 - b. The employee is a hazard to any person if permitted to remain on the job; or
 - c. An immediate suspension is necessary to maintain safety, health, order or effective direction of public services; or
 - d. The employee has been formally charged with a first, second or third degree crime; or
 - e. The employee has been formally charged with a first, second, third or fourth degree crime or a disorderly person's offense while on-duty or the act touches upon his or her employment.
2. The supervisor imposing the immediate suspension must:
 - a. Advise the employee in writing of why an immediate suspension is sought and the charges and general evidence in support of the charges.
 - 1) If the employee refuses to accept the written notification of immediate suspension, it shall be given to a representative of the employee's collective bargaining unit.
 - b. Provide the employee with sufficient opportunity to review the charges and the evidence and to respond either orally or in writing, if applicable.
 - c. Advise his immediate supervisor in writing of the suspension and the facts and circumstances requiring the suspension.
3. Administrative Reassignment
 - a. Administrative reassignment may be used in cases involving the use of force, which results in death or serious bodily injury, unless the employee is suspended or placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.
 - b. The administrative reassignment is subject to change by the Chief of Police or designee upon the outcome of the investigation.
4. Filing formal charges
 - a. Within five days of the suspension, the department must complete and file a Notice of Disciplinary Action against the suspended employee or return the employee to work. The filing of charges shall be suspended if the employee's suspension is due to a potential criminal matter under review by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

VI. INVESTIGATION

A. Criminal Misconduct Complaints

1. Where preliminary investigative data indicates the possibility of a criminal act on the part of the employee, or the investigation involves an allegation of the use of force by an officer that results in death or serious bodily injury, the Chief of Police shall be notified immediately who will then notify the Union County Prosecutor's Office. No further action shall be taken, including the filing of charges against the employee, until directed by the Chief of Police and the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
2. The Internal Affairs Unit shall interview the complainant, all witnesses as well as review relevant reports and records, and obtain other relevant information and materials.
 - a. A principal shall not be compelled to answer any questions in the absence of a grant of use immunity as conferred by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
 - b. The Internal Affairs Unit investigator shall consult with the Union County Prosecutor regarding the advisability of giving a Miranda Warning Form to the principal.

B. Administrative Misconduct Complaints

1. When preliminary investigative data indicates an administrative misconduct offense, which may result in disciplinary action:
 - a. A supervisor must notify the Internal Affairs Unit, who will conduct a full investigation of the matter to include interviewing the complainant, all witnesses, and principal as well as review relevant reports and records, and obtain other relevant information and materials; and
 - b. The Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor will notify the Chief of Police of the offense; and
 - c. The Internal Affairs Unit will forward copies of the appropriate disciplinary documents and Internal Affairs Report Forms to the Chief of Police for review; and
 - d. The Internal Affairs Unit will be responsible for the final case disposition and implementation of discipline, as determined by the Chief of Police or designee.

C. Performance Deficiency Complaints

1. Minor complaints should be assigned to and handled by a commanding officer at least one step removed from the employee's immediate supervisor, when possible.
2. When a complaint has been classified as a performance deficiency, the complaint shall be forwarded to the principal's supervisor or commanding

officer shall investigate the allegation or assign to a supervisor or commanding officer for inquiry and further action necessary. The supervisor or commanding officer shall then prepare a report summarizing the matter, recommending the appropriate corrective action.

3. The supervisor or commanding officer shall forward the completed report to the Internal Affairs Unit for review, and entry of the disposition in the recordkeeping system.
 4. Supervisor shall obtain an Internal Affairs filing number when the performance deficiency is:
 - a. Observed by supervisor, or is brought to his/her attention by another employee of the department, provided that no disciplinary action will be brought against a principal.
 - b. Performance deficiencies will be handled in the following manner:
 - 1) A Performance Notice (training and/or counseling) will be completed by the superior officer who viewed the performance deficiency, or who first received a report of the performance deficiency.
 - 2) The principal will be informed by the supervisor having knowledge of the violation as to the specific nature of the offense.
 - 3) The principal will be advised as to how the performance deficiency may be avoided or corrected in the future.
- D. Investigative procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the current New Jersey Attorney General Internal Affairs Policy and Procedure, any current New Jersey Attorney General Guideline or Directive on internal affairs as well as any Union County prosecutorial directive or guideline on internal affairs.
- E. Under no circumstances shall an employee attempt to influence, compromise or interfere with an Internal Affairs investigation or its outcome. Such improper behavior includes, but is not limited to:
1. Attempting to direct, pressure, or influence an Internal Affairs investigator in the conduct of an investigation;
 2. Using one's position or personal relationships, whether internal or outside the agency, to obtain personal benefit, preferential treatment, leniency, or advantage related to an Internal Affairs matter;
 3. Unauthorized disclosure or discussion of the nature and or source of allegations, the status of an Internal Affairs investigation, or investigative information/records with persons who do not have an official and legitimate need to know, including persons outside the agency, except as permitted by Attorney General/County Prosecutor direction, or other authorized process.
 - a. Nothing in this section prohibits or limits communication requested by or through the assigned Internal Affairs investigator, the employee's attorney or union/Weingarten representative provided that such

communication does not disrupt or interfere with the investigation, or communications required by law, contractual rights, or made at the direction of the County Prosecutor or Attorney General.

- b. The subject/principal of an investigation will be contacted by the assigned Internal Affairs investigator when additional information is needed, when a interview is required, or when it is otherwise necessary to complete the investigation.
4. Bypassing authorized chain of command and/or established reporting channels by contacting the Chief of Police (or other command staff) to discuss the substance of an open internal Affairs investigation with the intent to affect investigative steps or the final disposition.

VII. REPORTING

- A. Upon completion of all possible avenues of inquiry, the Internal Affairs Unit investigator shall complete the following reports:
 1. The internal investigation will be memorialized on the reports as are hereinafter identified. The reports will be submitted to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for approval on a regular basis so as to keep the case current at all times.
 2. All approved original reports will be maintained by the investigator until the investigation is concluded at which time the complete case file will be submitted to the Chief of Police through the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor.
 3. The completed report will be submitted in a report folder/envelope. The investigator may include the State Standardized Internal Affairs Complaint Form, the Internal Affairs Report Form, and the remaining attachments, numbered sequentially. Internal Affairs Report Forms will be placed in the folder/envelope as numbered attachments, in the correct chronological order.
 4. The Summary and Conclusions Report will be attached to the report folder/envelope.
 5. All attachments will be marked, unless marking the document in that area would damage or interfere with the content of the attachment.
- B. Report Flow
 1. The investigator, upon completion of the report, shall forward it directly to the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor, who will forward it to the Chief of Police.
 2. The Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor will review the case and make recommendations to the Chief of Police regarding discipline.
 3. The Chief of Police, upon receipt of the recommendation, will review the matter and make the final determination or return the case for further investigation.

4. Once the Chief of Police is provided with “sufficient information” to file a charge, the Chief of Police has forty-five (45) days to do so. (N.J.S.A 40A:14-147).
5. In all cases, a letter shall be sent to the complainant explaining the outcome of the investigation. If the allegation was unfounded or the employee was exonerated, this conclusion shall be stated and defined for the civilian complainant. If the allegation was not sustained, the letter shall provide the complainant with a brief explanation why the complaint was not sustained (e.g., insufficient proof, lack of witnesses, etc.). If the allegation was sustained and discipline was imposed, the letter shall simply state that the allegation was sustained and that the employee has been disciplined according to department procedures. It is not necessary to specify the discipline imposed.
6. Whenever a final determination is reached in an internal investigation, the employee(s) involved as a principal(s) shall be notified in writing by the Chief of Police of that determination.
7. If discipline is imposed, a record of such discipline, not including the Internal Affairs Report Form or attachments, shall be placed in the employee’s personnel file.

C. Internal Affairs Report Form

1. Within ten (10) calendar days of being assigned to conduct an internal investigation, the case investigator must complete an Internal Affairs Report Form and submit same for approval to the appropriate Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor. The report must include:
 - a. Documentation that the complainant has been contacted by the investigator to advise them of their assignment as the case investigator and to arrange a meeting to conduct an interview. If the investigator is unable to contact the complainant, the report must reflect that the appropriate certified ten (10) day letter, endorsed by the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor or Chief of Police, has been mailed to the complainant.
 - b. Documentation that the case investigator has contacted the principal(s) and informed them of the nature of the complaint against them.
 - c. An analysis of the allegations to be addressed by the investigation, linked to specific provisions of the Rules and Regulations, and/or any guidelines that govern the behavior of employees of the department.
2. Supplemental Internal Affairs Report Forms should be submitted on a regular basis to document the investigative process in all internal investigations wherein investigative activity took place during that period. For the purposes of this general order, the term regular basis shall be interpreted to mean at least every thirty (30) calendar days, unless the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor waives this requirement.

- a. If investigators are unable to complete an internal affairs investigation within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving a complaint, they must notify the Chief of Police on or about the 30th day. In such situations, the Chief of Police should seek to identify the reasons for the extended investigation and whether the Internal Affairs Unit requires additional resources or oversight to complete the inquiry in a prompt manner.
 - 1) In addition, the Chief of Police should ensure compliance with the “45-day rule” established by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-147.
- b. Investigators are required to provide further notice to the Chief of Police every additional 45 days that the internal affairs investigation remains open (*i.e.*, on or about the 90th, 135th, and 180th days from the receipt of the complaint), and the Chief of Police should exercise increasing scrutiny of the investigators’ work the longer the case remains open.
- c. In rare cases where the department has not filed disciplinary charges (or decided not to do so) within 180 days of receipt of the complaint, the department must notify the Union County Prosecutor.
 - 1) The Union County Prosecutor, or their designee, shall investigate the reasons for the extended investigation and shall also examine whether the department’s Internal Affairs Unit faces any systemic issues that require additional resources or oversight.
 - 2) The Union County Prosecutor may take any steps necessary to ensure prompt resolution of the pending matter, including supersession of the department’s investigation.
 - 3) The Elizabeth Police Department shall provide further notice to the Union County Prosecutor every additional 90 days that the investigation remains open (*i.e.*, on or about the 270th and 360th days from the receipt of the complaint).

D. Summary and Conclusion Report

- 1. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare allegations and conclusions.
- 2. The allegation will set forth, in narrative form, the alleged misconduct and be linked to the specific provision of the Rules and Regulations and/or directive purportedly violated.
- 3. The conclusion reached by the investigator, based upon the facts developed in his/her investigation, will fall into one of the following four (4) dispositions.
 - a. Sustained - A preponderance of the evidence shows an officer violated any law; regulation; directive, guideline, policy, or procedure issued by the Attorney General or County Prosecutor; agency protocol; standard operating procedure; rule; or training.

- b. Unfounded - A preponderance of the evidence shows that the alleged conduct did not occur;
 - c. Exonerated - A preponderance of the evidence shows the alleged conduct did occur, but did not violate any law; regulation; directive, guideline, policy, or procedure issued by the Attorney General or County Prosecutor; agency protocol; standard operating procedure; rule; or training. (For example, at the conclusion of an investigation into an excessive force allegation, the agency finds that the officer used force (alleged conduct) but that the force was not excessive (alleged violation).)
 - d. Not Sustained - The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.
- 4. The conclusions should be written in paragraph form wherein each piece of evidence that is relied upon in order to reach the conclusion found is individually numbered.
- 5. These individual paragraphs should be in sufficient detail that standing alone they provide a concise synopsis of the investigation and its findings.
- 6. These individual paragraphs should be footnoted to the source attachment used in formulating the paragraph.
- 7. The final paragraph in the allegations and conclusions should encompass verbiage that reads, in effect; "that based upon the preponderance of evidence accumulated in the investigation it is concluded that:
 - a. There is insufficient evidence that <Officer/Employee> did <alleged behavior>.
 - b. The allegation that <Officer/Employee> did <alleged behavior> is unfounded.
 - c. The allegation that <Officer/Employee> did <alleged behavior> is substantiated.
 - d. The investigation exonerates <Officer/Employee> of the allegation of <alleged behavior>.
- E. Performance Notice: is the form that must be completed by a supervisor to address the corrective action taken as a result of the performance deficiency.
 - 1. A Performance Notice shall be used when the performance deficiency warrants a corrective action of training or counseling.
 - 2. The supervisor recommending the issuance of a Performance Notice form (counseling, or training) shall complete and forward the unsigned copy to the principal's platoon/division commander for review and approval.
 - 3. Upon approval, the Performance Notice will be returned to the principal's supervisor for signature and service.

4. The employee shall be advised of the corrective action by the issuing supervisor. The employee shall sign the Performance Notice and be given a copy of the document. The original document shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police and the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for filing.
- F. Reprimand Notice (verbal/written reprimand): is the form that must be completed by a supervisor to address the disciplinary action initiated as a result of repeated performance deficiencies or administrative misconduct.
1. A Reprimand Notice shall be used when the performance deficiency or misconduct warrants disciplinary action of a verbal or written reprimand.
 2. The supervisor recommending the issuance of a Reprimand Notice form (verbal or written) shall complete and forward the unsigned copy to the principal's platoon/division commander for review and approval.
 3. Upon approval, the Reprimand Notice will be returned to the principal's supervisor for signature and service.
 4. The employee shall be advised of the disciplinary action by the issuing supervisor. The employee shall sign the Reprimand Notice and be given a copy of the document. The original document shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police and the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor for filing.
- G. Formal Charge:
1. A Notice of Disciplinary Action Form shall be used to formally charge an employee with administrative misconduct, the penalty for which exceeds a written reprimand.
 2. If the complaint is sustained after review, and it is determined that formal administrative charges should be pursued, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall direct the Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor or a designee of the Internal Affairs Unit to prepare the **Notice of Disciplinary Action form** and have it served upon the principal. The Chief of Police will sign and file these charges.
 3. The Notice of Disciplinary Action Form shall direct that the employee charged must enter a plea of guilty or not guilty, in writing, on or before the date set forth in the notice for entry of a plea. The date will be listed on the notice and must provide a reasonable time, at least 5 days after the date of service of the charges, to enter a plea and request a hearing, if applicable.
 4. Conclusion of fact and the penalty imposed will be noted in the employee's personnel file after he or she has been given an opportunity to read and sign it. The Internal Affairs Unit will cause the penalty to be carried out and complete all required forms. Note: the **Final Notice of Disciplinary Action form 31B** must be filed within 20 days of disposition.
- H. If the employee charged waives a hearing and enters a plea of guilty, the Police Director shall permit the employee to present factors in mitigation prior to assessing a penalty.

VIII. HEARINGS

- A. The hearing shall be held before the appropriate authority or the appropriate authority's designee. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-148, except as otherwise provided by law, the officer, board or authority empowered to hear and determine the charge or charges made against an employee of the police department, shall have the power to subpoena witnesses and documentary evidence. The Superior Court shall have jurisdiction to enforce any such subpoena.
- B. All disciplinary hearings shall be closed to the public. However, the employee may request an open hearing. The appropriate authority or the appropriate authority's designee shall conduct a closed hearing unless a legitimate reason exists to grant the employee's request for an open hearing. The hearing date will be set on the **Notice of Disciplinary Action form**.
- C. The appropriate authority or the appropriate authority's designee will fix punishments that are deemed appropriate under the circumstances in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.
- D. The appropriate authority or the appropriate authority's designee is empowered to enter a finding of sustained or not sustained, or to modify the charges as deemed necessary. The decision of the appropriate authority or the appropriate authority's designee should be in writing and should be accompanied by findings of fact for each issue in the case.
- E. A copy of the decision or order and accompanying findings and conclusions shall be delivered to the employee who was the subject of the hearing.

IX. CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The progress of Internal Affairs investigations and all supporting materials are considered confidential information. Upon completing a case, the Internal Affairs Unit will enter the disposition in the Internal Affairs record keeping system.
- B. The Elizabeth Police Department shall protect and maintain the confidentiality of all internal affairs records against the agency or employees. These records shall be in a designated secure area accessible only to the Chief of Police, Internal Affairs Unit Supervisor and other sworn personnel as authorized by the Chief of Police.
- C. The information and records of an internal investigation shall only be released under the following limited circumstances:
 - 1. If administrative charges have been brought against an employee and a hearing will be held, a copy of all discoverable materials shall be provided to the employee and the hearing officer before the hearing.
 - 2. If the principal, agency or municipality has been named as a defendant in a lawsuit arising out of the specific incident covered by an internal investigation, a copy of the Internal Affairs Report Forms may be released to the attorney representing the principal, agency or jurisdiction.
 - 3. Upon request or at the direction of the Union County Prosecutor or New Jersey Attorney General.

2. If the principal, department or municipality has been named as a defendant in a lawsuit arising out of the specific incident covered by an internal investigation, a copy of the Internal Affairs Report Forms may be released to the attorney representing the principal, department or jurisdiction.
 3. Upon request or at the direction of the Any County Prosecutor or New Jersey Attorney General.
 4. Upon a court order; or
 5. Upon a request from the Division of Pensions, following an officer's application for a retirement allowance.
- D. The Chief of Police may authorize access to a particular file or record for good cause. The request and the authorization shall be in writing, and the written authorization shall specify who is being granted access, to which records access is being granted, and for what time period access is permitted. The authorization shall also specify any conditions (i.e., the files may be reviewed only at the internal affairs office and may not be removed). In addition, the law enforcement executive may order any redactions in accordance with the current IAPP. The Chief of Police should grant such access sparingly, given the purpose of the internal affairs process and the nature of many of the allegations against officers. As a general matter, a request for internal investigation case files may satisfy the good cause requirement:
1. If a Civilian Review Board that meets certain minimum requirements requests access to a completed or closed investigation file, subject to the conditions described in this section; or
 2. If another law enforcement agency requests the files because it is considering hiring an officer who was formerly employed at the agency with the internal investigation files.
- E. The *Summary and Conclusions Report* shall be released in response to a request made under the common law right of access by any member of the public or press where it satisfies any of the following conditions:
1. The *Summary and Conclusions Report* led to a result on or after January 1, 2023, that requires disclosure pursuant the current IAPP;
 2. The agency otherwise concludes that the *Summary and Conclusions Report* is subject to release pursuant to applicable law or court order; or
 3. Upon the request or at the direction of the County Prosecutor or Attorney General at any time.
- F. When an agency concludes that a *Summary and Conclusions Report* is subject to disclosure, it shall redact the following before disclosure:
1. The names of complainants, witnesses, informants, victims and cooperators, in addition to information that could reasonably lead to discovery of their identities;

- a. In instances of domestic violence, in addition to redaction of the victim's name, all reference to the specific nature of the qualifying relationship should also be redacted to protect the identity of the victim. For example, if the victim is an intimate partner, terms such as "spouse," "partner," "girlfriend," "boyfriend," "husband," or "wife," should also be redacted, and to the extent possible the report should just indicate that the relationship between the victim and the officer was an enumerated relationship under the Domestic Violence Act (*N.J.S.A. 2C:25-17 et seq.*).
 2. Non-public, personal identifying information about any individual named in the report, such as their home addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, familial relationships, etc.;
 3. Medical information or history, including but not limited to, mental health or substance abuse services and drug or alcohol evaluation, counseling or treatment;
 4. Information regarding any criminal investigation or prosecution that is not already contained in a public filing, or any information that would impede or interfere with a pending criminal or disciplinary proceeding;
 5. Any records or material prohibited from disclosure by law;
 6. Juvenile records;
 7. Any information which is the subject of a judicial order compelling confidentiality;
 8. Any other information that would violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy; and
 9. Any information regarding law enforcement personnel, procedures, or resources that could create a risk to the safety of any person, including but not limited to law enforcement personnel.
- G. Whenever a law enforcement officer makes an application to the New Jersey Division of Pensions for retirement benefits, in anticipation of upcoming retirement and the receipt of a pension, both the department and the officer shall have an affirmative obligation to report to the Division of Pensions the existence of any pending internal affairs investigation, complaint or case, including those on appeal, as well as any criminal charges.
- H. Agencies may receive subpoenas directing the production of internal affairs investigative records. Before responding to the subpoena, the Chief of Police should consult with the Department's legal counsel or County Prosecutor's Office to determine whether the subpoena is valid.
- I. If the release of internal affairs documents is appropriate, the department should inventory the reports they are releasing and obtain a signed receipt.

J. Subpoenas for Employee's Personnel/Internal Affairs Files

1. In matters that involve criminal and/or civil actions resulting from an internal affairs case, the department shall **NOT** release any information in response to the subpoena without first contacting the Assistant Prosecutor to whom the matter has been assigned by telephone and in writing. All such contact shall be noted in the internal affairs report.

X. INTERNAL AFFAIRS FILES

- A. A separate Internal Affairs file system shall be maintained in a secured file cabinet. Personnel records are separate and distinct from Internal Affairs records. Internal Affairs Report Forms shall not be placed in an employee's personnel records file.

1. When a complaint has a disposition of exonerated, not sustained, or unfounded, there shall be no indication in the employee's personnel file that a complaint was ever made.
2. When a complaint has been sustained, only the disciplinary action imposed shall be filed in an employee's personnel file.

- B. The file system shall contain all investigative files resulting from Internal Affairs complaints and the original copy of the following reports:

1. Vehicular Pursuit Reports;
2. Use of Force Reports;
3. Firearm's Discharge Reports.

- C. Selection and Hiring

1. In addition to the requirements of the selection process, background investigations must include a review of the prior internal affairs files of any law enforcement candidate.
2. Any member employed by the Elizabeth Police Department who applies to another law enforcement agency must notify the Chief of Police through their chain of command in writing of their application no later than the day the application is submitted. If the member was denied employment for any reason, a notification to the Chief of Police, in writing, including the reason for their denial, must be made immediately.
3. If the Elizabeth Police Department has reason to believe that a candidate for employment was previously a sworn officer of another law enforcement agency, the Elizabeth Police Department has an affirmative obligation to identify all such former employers. The Elizabeth Police Department shall then request all internal affairs files for cases where the candidate was the principal, regardless of the ultimate disposition or status of the complaint.

- a. If requested, the Elizabeth Police Department shall provide a written acknowledgement to the releasing agency that it will maintain the confidentiality of said files in accordance with this policy.
 4. If the Elizabeth Police Department receives such a request regarding a former employee, then it shall immediately share copies of all internal investigative information related to that candidate with the hiring agency, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:17B-247. Confidential internal affairs files shall not be disclosed to any other party.
 5. The Chief of Police retains the authority to defer a decision on hiring a particular candidate until all extant internal affairs information has been received and reviewed.
- D. Investigative records created during an Internal Affairs Investigation are included in the “Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for Local Police Departments” and shall be maintained as such. The agency may choose to retain the files longer and exceed the retention schedule.

XI. COUNTY PROSECUTOR

- A. The Union County Prosecutor is responsible for conducting substantive oversight to ensure that the Internal Affairs Unit of the Elizabeth Police Department is operating professionally and effectively.